

Mr. Speaker, with that, before I yield back the balance of my time, I will ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform, both in Afghanistan and in Iraq and throughout the world, and I will ask God to please bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. OWENS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### IN HONOR OF NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from New York.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Texas, Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, for her leadership in making this week happen. Her resolution, H. Res. 928, passed the House on July 26, 2006, designating the week of September 10, 2006, as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week. I also want to commend Minority Whip Steny Hoyer for organizing this discussion this evening.

Mr. Speaker, there are 103 Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the United States that serve over 260,000 undergraduate students, with just over a quarter of all HBCUs offering either a first professional degree, a master's degree in business administration, or a J.D. or doctorate degree.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities are defined as institutions established prior to 1964 with the principal mission of educating African Americans. HBCUs educated approximately 14 percent of the Nation's African American undergraduate students, awarding almost one-quarter, 23.1 percent, of all bachelor's degrees to black students. Almost half, 46.8 percent, of the undergraduate students attending HBCUs received Pell Grants, indicating that these institutions provide key educational opportunities for low-income African Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I have 10 brothers and sisters. We grew up in rural Arkansas, where my parents were low-income sharecroppers. Seven of us attended the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. I also have three nephews and a niece who attended the same school, plus a number of cousins. I strongly believe that perhaps none of us would have been able to attend college had it not been for the fact that the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, which then was Arkansas AM&N College, existed.

These schools provide a nurturing environment and provide instructors that I remember even to this day. I remem-

ber the President, we called him "Prexy," Dr. Lawrence A. Davis, Sr., who would often let us register, whether we had the money to pay our tuition or not. His son, Dr. Lawrence A. Davis, Jr., is now the current chancellor and is just doing an outstanding job.

I remember a cousin of mine who graduated from UAPB and then moved to Champaign, Illinois, got his master's degree, Willie Summerville, who was honored by the City of Champaign a few weeks ago for being its outstanding citizen. He organized a choir and took it to Rome to sing for the Pope.

I could go on and on and think of just any number of outstanding individuals who were able to demonstrate their abilities and competency because of these institutions.

I think of many of my colleagues. As a matter of fact, a majority of my colleagues who are African American graduated from Historically Black Colleges and Universities: JESSE JACKSON, Jr., and his daddy, Jesse Jackson, Sr. I think of Representative ALCEE HASTINGS, who went to Fisk University, and on and on and on and on.

But the real deal is these institutions are worth their weight in gold. They have contributed significantly to the development of our country. They need all of the support that they can get.

So, again, I thank Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for establishing this week and congratulate all of these institutions for the tremendous job that they do.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GILCHREST addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This past July, I was able to offer on the House floor a resolution recognizing National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week.

The week of September 10th is officially HBCU week. I am pleased to be able to join with my colleagues today to recognize these fine institutions of higher learning.

For over 170 years, our Historically Black Colleges and Universities have been on the forefront of preparing our nation's youth for a bright path and successful future. Originally founded for the purpose of providing educational opportunities for African Americans, HBCUs have profoundly changed the American economic and social climate.

The fact is that until 1964, HBCUs represented one of the only opportunities African

American students had to obtain a degree in higher education. HBCUs have changed the face of this nation and have opened the door for many generations of African American students.

Today, America's HBCUs continue to provide excellent educational opportunities to all Americans. Over 200,000 diverse students across the United States attend HBCUs today.

I am proud to represent Paul Quinn College, the oldest historical Black college west of the Mississippi River. For over 130 years, Paul Quinn has provided their students with the tools to become successful leaders. Because of their unique resources, HBCUs continue to be extremely effective in graduating African American students and preparing them to compete in the global economy.

HBCUs graduate over half of all African American professionals, and fifty percent of all African American school teachers. Additionally, HBCUs remain extremely successful in graduating African American Ph.D's and scientists. The fact is that we cannot move forward as a country until all our children have the opportunity to succeed academically. Each day HBCUs help us bridge that achievement gap.

National HBCU Week allows us to reflect upon the impact these institutions have had on our history and to celebrate their continued commitment to outstanding education. I would like to thank my colleagues for their support in passing the national HBCU week resolution.

#### NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues today to recognize Historically Black Colleges and Universities during this newly established National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, September 10 through September 16. I share September 10 with them because September 10 was my birthday.

This year's theme, "The Tradition Continues: New Successes and Challenges," speaks to how important HBCUs have been to the education of African Americans and minorities in this country and how we must continue to preserve these unique institutions of higher learning.

□ 1815

Though I did not attend an historically black university, I understand the importance these schools played in African American history and African American heritage. Many HBCUs were formed during Reconstruction following the Civil War to educate freed slaves and sharecroppers. H. Patrick Swygert, the President of Howard University, noted the significance of HBCUs in a speech in which he stated "HBCUs provided the avenue for the descendants of sharecroppers to get an education in an environment that was sensitive to their special circumstances and one where their humanity would not be questioned. This